

October, November
and December 2011

CASA of Pinal County, the **PAPR**

A NEWS PAPR TO INSPIRE POSITIVE ACTION, POWERFUL RESULTS



AOC Launches New CASA Website

The State CASA is pleased to inform you of the launch of our new CASA website! It will grant you access to the secure upload, forms, training, calendar, news and events.

Here are the web addresses:

County program www.CASAofpinalcounty.org

CASA of Arizona www.CASAofArizona.org

The current website will be available until October 3rd but after that time you will be required to use our new website. Your CASA Coordinators will be sending you further instructions on how to use the new site.

Please begin using our new website as soon as possible once you get the instructions and let us know if you have any questions.

We appreciate all you do for our foster children.

Welcome New CASA Volunteers

Antoinette-Smith-Coolidge,
Vicki Arndt- San Tan
Rosa (Maria) Vega-Maricopa
Jacqueline Smith-Maricopa
Harry Tasco- San Tan
Kathleen Musick-Maricopa

They all have completed the CASA Academy and are looking forward to their first CASA case. Congratulations to all of you and welcome to our team!

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www.azcasa.org

National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse

The New National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse was launched in May 2011 as a program of the National District Attorneys Association. Through a grant from the Animal Welfare Trust, it was created in partnership with the ASPCA and Animal Legal Defense Fund to assist and train prosecutors and allied professional on the effective handling of animal abuse cases.

What does that have to do with Dependent Children and domestic violence? It turns out, plenty.

Animal Abuse is more prevalent in homes that experience child abuse and domestic violence.

In a study of battered women in several northeastern states, 48 % of respondents reported that animal abuse had occurred “often” and another 30% reported that the abuse occurred “almost always”.

When children witness violence in the home, they are more likely to display violence toward animals.

For the complete article on this very serious trend, go to http://www.ndaa.org/pdf/Tales_of_Justice_final_NDAA.pdf

.5 education hours for reading the article.

Training Resources

12 education hours are required every year, go to www.azcasa.org or one of the Sources listed below for training opportunities.

<http://www.nationalcac.org/professionals/index.php>

The National Children's Advocacy Center offers a significant number of services and resources to child abuse professionals, both multidisciplinary and discipline-specific. Many are based on the model programs created and used by the NCAC.

Free! [Online Training courses](#) are recorded online training sessions synched with a PowerPoint Presentation. With 30 courses to choose from, these sessions feature some of the most respected names in the field as its faculty. These online training courses range in length from 1 hour to 3 ½ hours. [Learn more](#)

Revamped Resource Library on www.CASAforChildren.org

A wealth of information is waiting for you at the reorganized and expanded **Resource Library CASAforChildren.org/volunteers**. The library contains links to articles, publications and web-sites organized around timeless and timely topics, ranging from “Addiction/Substance Abuse” to “Immigration” to “Working with Older Youth”.

More Training Opportunities

The link Provided directs you to the CASA of Arizona.org website for resources recently posted which include 2 postings that we are excited to offer to you: http://www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/advocate/volunteer_resources.html

Statutory Grounds for Termination of Parental Rights is the power point presentation from Laura Giaquinto, Chief Counsel for Dependency at the Attorney General's Office to the DCSD staff. We have found that this document offers answers to questions that we often are in search of and which may be very helpful to our CASAs and staff. Laura has given her permission for this to be posted to the CASA website.

The videos for each session of the Domestic Violence Conference entitled "**Connecting the Nine Dots**" are now available for viewing. The focus of the conference was domestic violence and child welfare. Highly recommend all the sessions and information on data which points to specific needs of families and children in domestic violence situations. The link to view the sessions is at the top of the page next to the home button.

New Issue of *The Connection* Available

The latest issue of *The Connection*, highlighting the challenges of working with impoverished families, is now available online. As we have noted previously, *The Connection* will be published exclusively online for the foreseeable future. Read the new issue at CASAforChildren.org/Connection
CASA

Peer Support Meetings

Casa Grande Peer Support Meeting
October 13
5:30pm TO 7:30 pm
Topic-Meet Judge Oldham
820 E. Cottonwood Lane Bldg F-2
Casa Grande, AZ



16th Annual Pinal County Domestic Violence Conference

Serving the Underserved

*Thursday, November 2, 2011
8:00am-5:00pm*

*at
Dolce Vita
3301 S. Goldfield Road
Apache Junction, AZ*



Please send the registration form along with a check or Purchase Order in the amount of \$50.00, payable to Against Abuse, Inc. to:

Against Abuse, Inc.
P.O. Box 10733
Casa Grande, AZ 85130

No later than October 25th, 2011

You may also register and/or submit your payment online at:
www.against-abuse.org
Questions: 520.836.12

16th Annual
Pinal County
Domestic Violence
Conference

CASA and Dependency Update

We want to welcome Cory Sanchez as our new Dependency Coordinator. Cory has worked for the department for years as a diversion officer. We are excited to have Cory on our team and look forward to having you meet him.

Our IFC Coordinator, Teresa Hermosillo-Horne has returned after a medical leave. We are glad she is back and feeling better.

We want to say 'thank you' to Todd Warren our supervisor for the past 2 years. Thanks for all

your support and guidance. He is moving to a new unit within the department. We want to welcome Kim Faust our new dependency supervisor. Kim has been with the department for 15 years and we look forward to working with her.

Save the Date, Mark Your Calendar!!

All day CASA Training

Saturday, October 29, 2011
9:00am-3:00pm
Superior Courthouse
Jason Lopez Circle
Florence

More Information to come!!
6.0 training hours



Chrissy Edwards, Senior Licensing Specialist at [Arizona's Children Association](#) says that's a lot of children waiting to be adopted

- You must be a legal US resident.
- You can be married, single, divorced or widowed
- Applicants must be 18 to adopt or 21 to provide foster care
- Applicants and adult household members must be fingerprinted for a criminal history records check
- Be physically, mentally and emotionally able to care for children. A current medical statement from each applicant is a required part of the application.
- You must provide proof of economic stability.

The first step toward adopting or fostering a child is to attend an orientation. The schedule of orientations statewide to find out more about foster care and adoption are at www.azkidsneedu.gov or you can call 1-877-KIDS-NEEDU or 1-877-543-7633. Read more: <http://www.abc15.com/dpp/lifestyle/family/become-a-foster-parent-to-1-of-10%2C000-kids-waiting-to-be-adopted#ixzz1Z6gRmv8A>


- Our own CASA, Cathi Schmoke, was interviewed by Channel 15 on September 14, if you missed it, the video will be available for 2 years on their website www.abc15.com



It's all about
The children
And the
Work of the
CASA
Volunteer



- ☐ Never get discouraged, there's always another day.
- ☐ Technology is here to stay, try to use it to your advantage.
- ☐ Knowledge is power so get as much information as possible before drawing conclusions.
- ☐ Be prepared always when dealing with authority figures for the child.
- ☐ Views by a CASA may be challenged, but if you feel you are right, fight for the child.
- ☐ When it comes to CASA who is Jimmy Wayne? E-mail Gina with the correct answer and the first one wins a prize.
- ☐ Every child in Foster Care deserves a CASA, your child got one. Help us recruit more volunteers.

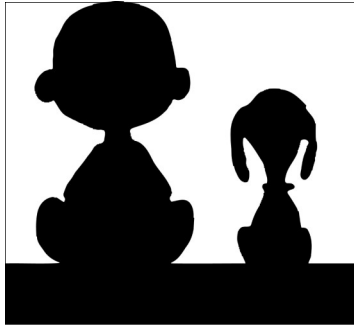
A cartoon illustration of a girl with dark hair and a boy with light hair, both looking up at a sign. The sign has the word 'EVER' in large, bold, black letters, and below it, in smaller letters, 'GIVE UP!'. The girl is on the left, wearing a pink shirt and purple pants, and the boy is on the right, wearing a yellow shirt and brown pants. They are both standing on a light blue surface.

CAC presents *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*

Friday, October 21, 8 p.m., Saturday, October 22, 8 p.m. and Sunday, October 23, 2 p.m.

Due to the renovation taking place at the Pence Center, the play will be held at the CAC Cafeteria. The Cafeteria is located in the I Building, on the 2nd floor, above the Bookstore.

Here is a brief synopsis of the play: "an average day in the life of Charlie Brown." It really is just that, a day made up of little moments picked from all the days of Charlie Brown, from Valentine's Day to the baseball season, from wild optimism to utter



despair, all mixed in with the lives of his friends (both human and non-human)

and strung together on the string of a single day, from bright uncertain morning to hopeful starlit evening." - Clark Gesner.

Admissions is \$5, To purchase tickets, please come to the Cashier's Office at the Signal Peak Campus

CASA office closed for Holiday Observance

- * Monday, October 10—Columbus Day
- * Friday, November 11 —Veteran's Day
- * Monday, December -Christmas
- * Monday, January 2, 2012– New Year's

A Night in Monte Carlo raises approximately \$28,000.00



If you weren't at the Property Conference Center in Casa Grande on Saturday, September 17, you missed a great night of food, fun, fellowship, and gaming!!

This is PCCI's only fundraiser and with the funds they are able to help our youth with tutoring, Project Prom, CAC scholarships, ...Hope you can plan to join us next year!! Thank you PCCI for all you do for the children!

PCCI Christmas Party**Be sure you remind your CASA child's placement****Of the PCCI Sponsored****Christmas Party****Santa Claus, games, presents and food****The child's caseworker would have the****Details as to time and place.****IN APPRECIATION**

Thank you Gina Green of AZDES for taking the time to attend our Peer Support Meeting September 8, 2011. Her training on Understanding Case Plans was a valuable training opportunity to help our volunteers in their case work.

PCCI as always, supports the children in Foster Care and we thank them for all that they do to raise awareness and funds for the cause.

Judge White and Judge Oldham continue to support the CASA program and take the time from their busy schedule to attend our Peer Support meetings to meet some of the volunteers outside of court.

Thanks to Laura Devany of First Things First for making a presentation on Early Childhood Health and Development at our Peer Support Meeting on August 25, 2011.